Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-10 (cancelled).

- 11 (currently amended): A method of amplifying a target RNA comprising the steps of:
 - a) producing double-stranded DNA having a <u>T7</u> promoter sequence by using the target RNA as a template,
 - b) transcribing the double-stranded DNA in a reaction solution in the presence of an RNA polymerase from phage T7 and ribonucleotide triphosphates, wherein the ribonucleotide triphosphates include:
 - adenosine triphosphate, uridine triphosphate, cytidine triphosphate, and guanosine
 triphosphate at a final concentration, together, of 2 mM to 3.5 mM and
 - inosine triphosphate at a final concentration of 3.2 mM to 4.4 mM;
 to produce transcripted RNA, wherein the transcripted RNA is
 - an RNA having the same sequence as the target RNA or
 - RNA consisting of a base sequence complementary to the target RNA base sequence[;],
 and

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c) producing double-stranded DNA having a promoter sequence by using the transcripted RNA

as the template,

the method being performed in the presence of (i) tris-HC1 buffer having a pH of 8.5-8.9 at a

final concentration of 50 mM to 80 mM and (ii) magnesium chloride at a final concentration of

12 mM to 20 mM.

Claims 12-18 (cancelled).

19 (currently amended): A method of assaying a target RNA comprising

amplifying the target RNA according to claim 11, wherein the transcribing step occurs in the

further presence of a fluorescently labeled probe that hybridizes, wherein fluorescence of the

fluorescently labeled probe alters upon hybridization of the probe with the transcripted RNA,

and

monitoring fluorescence of the reaction solution.

Claims 20-22 (cancelled).

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